



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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April 5, 2006

The Virginia Office of EMS Announces Plan Regarding the Revised AHA Guidelines on Certification Exams

The current written and practical examinations utilized by the Virginia Office of EMS are being reviewed to determine what impact the 2005 American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care will have on testing in the state. A review of the written examinations utilized for the Virginia Enhanced, Intermediate and Paramedic certification levels has determined that no changes are necessary at this time.

The National Registry of EMT's (NREMT) has announced their plans for revising their written and practical examinations. All ALS Practical examinations utilized by NREMT will follow the plan published on their Web site (www.nremt.org).

In conjunction with the implementation of revised AHA guidelines, the Virginia Office of EMS will be revising state written and practical examinations as follows:

- After July 1, 2006, the Virginia Office of EMS will distribute new EMT-First Responder and EMT-Basic written examinations which are AHA neutral. This means that no question that appears on these examinations will refer to the 2000 or 2005 AHA guidelines.
- After July 1, 2006, practical examination skill sheets will continue to reflect the 2000 guidelines; however instructions to examiners will be modified so that candidates who correctly perform the 2005 AHA guidelines are not penalized. Candidates must notify the evaluator upon entering the practical station if they will be performing the 2000 or 2005 AHA guidelines.
- After July 1, 2007 all Virginia Practical exams will reflect 2005 American Heart Association Guidelines for Emergency Cardiovascular Care.

Please contact a member of the Office of EMS, Division of Educational Development if you have further questions or require additional information.



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